

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /064 W

----- 097202

O R 191040Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7764

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 16363

DELIVER DRAPER, NES/ARN OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. THIS LOOKS LIKE A SO-SO DAY. SITUATION AROUND EMBASSY AND HAMRA AREA IS MUCH BETTER, WITH CONSIDERABLE TRAFFIC CIRCULATING AND PEOPLE DOING SHOPPING. DOWNTOWN AREA OF TOWN AND USUAL TROUBLESONE SUBURBS, HOWEVER CONTINUE TO BE QUIET AND UNSAFE FOR NORMAL ACTIVITY. SNIPING AND OTHER SPORADIC FIRING CONTINUES. HAPPILY, SOME FUEL OIL TRUCKS ARE GETTING THROUGH.

2. TRIPOLI-ZGHORTA AREA CONTINUED TO SEE FIGHTING YESTERDAY THOUGH IT WOULD APPEAR ARMORED CARS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN YESTERDAY'S BATTLES AS THEY HAD DAY BEFORE. THEY MAY HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO ARMY AND FSI. ONE VERY TROUBLESONE EVENT IS CASE OF WOMEN BEING KIDNAPPED AND HELD HOSTAGE IN ALEY AREA OF SHOUF. FROM THEIR NAMES IT WOULD APPEAR THEY ARE CHRISTIAN, AND RANSOM DEMANDS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN MADE. THIS IS FIRST CONFIRMED CASE OF THIS SORT, AND IT MAY SET VERY BAD PRECEDENT.

3. ON OTHER HAND, THREE GERMANS WHO WERE KIDNAPPED SOME DAYS AGO HAVE BEEN RELEASED THROUGH THE GOOD SERVICES OF
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IMAM MUSA SADR. GERMAN EMBASSY HAS ANNOUNCED NO

RPT NO RANSOM WAS PAID. AS ONE INDICATOR OF LOCAL EXPECTATIONS, WE NOTE MARONITE AND GREEK ORTHODOX HAVE CANCELLED TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT SERVICES IN BEIRUT THIS YEAR.

4. POLITICAL WRANGLING SOMEWHAT LESS LOUD. CHAMOUN SLAPPED BACK AT SAEB SALAM, WHO HAD CALLED FOR HIS AND FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. NOTHING VERY STARLING IN THIS AREA. PRESS REPORTS FROM ROME INDICATE GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH HAKIM IS INTERPRETING RAYMOND EDDE'S COMMENTS OF YESTERDAY AS IMPLYING CIA COOPERATION WITH RIGHT-WING CHRISTIANS IN WORKING TO PARITION LEBANON AND IS QUOTED AS OPINING THIS IS PROBABLY TRUE.

GODLEY

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